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of the preliminary list*

OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Letter dated 27 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter dated 3 February 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to you (A/52/71), I have the honour to transmit herewith the note verbale of 2 March 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran.

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 39 and 148 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/52/50.

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Annex

Note verbale dated 2 March 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran and with reference to the note dated 28 January 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi, has the honour to state the following.

As is well known, barge No. 1326 carrying vehicles and building materials was separated from its tugboat due to bad weather, and then was drawn to the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates by the wind. Ten hours after the request for assistance from Ras al-Khaimah port officials, the barge was hauled by the tugboat Hana to Mina Seghar port. Therefore, the presence of the barge in territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates was solely due to its separation from its tugboat and the bad weather.

In the light of the friendly and good-neighbourly relations that exist between the two countries, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expected that the Government of the United Arab Emirates would have extended her cooperation to return the barge to the Islamic Republic of Iran, rather than bringing it to the attention of international bodies.